



SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 1997

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 18, 7 - 9 pm: *Meeting the Neighbors: Recognizing California's Native Plants, Session I* at Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

Oct. 16, 7 - 9 pm: *Meeting the Neighbors: Recognizing California's Native Plants, Session II* at Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

Oct. 18, 9:00 am: *Sunset Ridge Hike* with Rick Fisher.

Nov. 20, 7 - 9 pm: *Meeting the Neighbors: Recognizing California's Native Plants, Session III* at Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

CHANGES

Back East, autumn was the time of big changes, the *real* new year. That snap to the air told you to look sharp—the indolent days of summer were drawing to an end, and things were starting up again.

In Southern California there's the same flurry of activity when summer ends. There are rains waiting out on the horizon somewhere (Biblical rains, this year, we're told), and it's time to start thinking about your garden. And our chapter of the CNPS is swinging into high gear, too, with a couple of major changes.



Coreopsis bigelovii
A member of Asteraceae,
the largest plant family
in California.

First, and happiest, is a major plant identification course the Board has been thinking about for a couple of years and is finally getting off the ground. **“Meeting the Neighbors: Recognizing California's Native Plants”** will be a 6-hour fall workshop (three 2-hour sessions) in basic plant identification, with emphasis on Southern California's native flowering plants. Novices can learn basic skills; those already skilled can brush up on their knowledge (familiarity breeds content, is our motto). Sessions 1 & 2 (Sept. 18 and Oct. 16), led by long-time Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden instructor Bob Muns, will focus on identifying the common plant families of California; Session 3 (Nov. 20), led by Eaton Canyon

naturalist Mickey Long, will introduce the botanical key and other tips to Plant ID in the field. All workshops will be held on the third Thursday of the month at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, from 7 to 9 p.m. (**please note—sessions begin earlier than our usual programs.**) We are asking for a donation, of \$7.00 per session, as a way to raise funds for our chapter. To register, call Kathy LaShure, 626-355-7064.

But autumn is also, traditionally, the time of partings, and we're sad to note that as of August 30, Melanie and Jon Keeley and entourage have relocated to the Washington (DC, not AC) area. Jon has taken a position with the National Science Foundation; Melanie plans to concentrate on her writing, maybe finally finish that book, and get acquainted with a whole new biota. Katie and Daniel will work on fine motor skills and cognitive development. We wish them well, we'll miss them, we wonder what the heck we're going to do without them. They leave a large unfillable niche in the Southern California Plant Community, so to speak.

Melanie will welcome guests as soon as they've settled in the D.C. area, so at least you'll have someone to visit when you harangue your representatives about the Endangered Species Act.

See you September 18! *—Becky*

SUMMER SURFING

One of the fun things I've done this summer, along with marvelous hikes in the Sierra, is get acquainted with the Internet. I've discovered that it's great for those of us who love to browse library shelves—there's just so much to explore. I've found web sites for books, antiques, medical information, weather (I love looking at animated radar maps of the daily thunderstorm activity in Arizona where my parents live), computer help, and, native plants, of course.

The CNPS site is fantastic! It has information on all the chapters (some of which have their own sites), rare plants, CNPS policies, conservation issues, legislation, plant communities, a bookstore, and a kid's page. It also has an incredible list of links to other sites of a native nature.

Its address is long:

http://www.calpoly.edu/~dchippin/cnps_main.html

But you can also find it by typing CNPS into any search engine. Of course, I predict that you'll be bookmarking this site.

Other sites you might try:

<http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/flowers>
Brousseau Collection of California Wildflowers which contains 11,256 photos of 2000 species taken by Brother Alfred Brousseau (1908-88).

<http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/calflora>
CalFlora Database which has geographic and ecological distribution information for 6717 plant taxa compiled from Munz' *California Flora* and CNPS *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants*.

Happy Surfing!

—Kathy



CHAPTER EVENTS

Meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (map on back cover) on the third Thursday of the month.

PROGRAMS

Sept. 18, Thurs, 7:00 pm: Plant I.D. Workshop with Bob Muns. See President's Message on pg. 1 for details. \$7.00 donation requested.

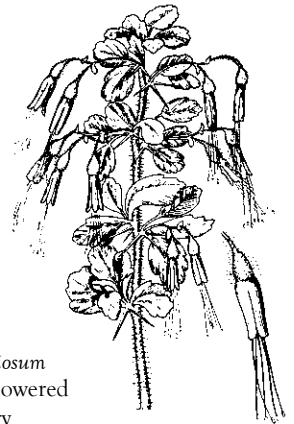
Oct. 16, Thurs, 7:00 pm: Plant I.D. Workshop with Bob Muns. See President's Message on pg. 1 for details. \$7.00 donation requested.

Nov. 20, Thurs, 7:00 pm: Plant I.D. Workshop with Mickey Long. See President's Message on pg. 1 for details. \$7.00 donation requested.

OUTINGS

Oct. 18, Sat, 9:00 am: Sunset Ridge Trail with Rick Fisher. This will be the perfect chance to use your renewed or newly acquired identifying skills. The trail passes nearly all of the dominant shrubs and trees to be found in the San Gabriel Mountains front range. Meet at the Millard Canyon parking lot: take Chaney Trail Dr. north from Loma Alta Dr. in Altadena; drive over the ridge and down to the parking lot at the bottom of Millard Canyon. Bring hat, sun screen, walking shoes, water, *Adventure Pass* (see below). Over by lunch time. For additional information call Rick at 626-798-7270.

PLEASE NOTE: The U. S. Forest Service now requires visitors to have an *Adventure Pass*, to be displayed on vehicles when parked. A \$5.00 daily pass or a \$30.00 annual pass may be purchased at District Ranger stations, Sports Chalet or REI. Call 626-574-5200 for information.



Ribes speciosum
Fuschia-flowered
gooseberry

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Eaton Canyon Docent-Naturalist Program

If you like the idea of walking a mile at a moderate pace, sharing nature facts and lore with children, and enjoy speaking to small groups—you'll be a natural as a Docent-Naturalist. Add to your current knowledge of plants, animals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, insects, and Native American cultural practices with this Eaton Canyon nature study course. Ten week courses begin Tuesday, Sept. 9, 1997. The day course meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9:30 am - 12 noon. The evening course meets Tuesday evening 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. \$45.00 fee includes ECNCA membership and material. For more information call 626-398-5420.

BOOKSHELF NOTES

The following interesting facts and figures regarding California plant genera are from Bob Muns' (our Sept. and Oct. workshop instructor) handy booklet, *California Genera of Vascular Plants*.

- ✿ The longest generic name in our flora: *Krascheninnikovia*.
- ✿ The shortest generic names: *Iva* and *Poa*.
- ✿ The genus with the most California species: *Carex* (135).
- ✿ Considering the world-wide flora, California's largest genus: *Astragalus* (± 2000).
- ✿ Total number of species in California: 6060.
- ✿ This includes 1039 introduced species (17%).
- ✿ The total Genera: 1255.



HIKING

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is offering the following docent-led hikes this fall.

Wilson Canyon Bird Hike with Jim Laage: Sat., Sept. 20, 7:00 am.; 14055 Olive View Dr., Sylmar (exit Roxford from 210 Fwy, turn north to Olive View Dr., watch for park entrance 150 yds beyond the hospital).

Sage Ranch Saunter with Tom Maxwell: Sun., Sept. 21, 4:00 pm & Sun. Oct. 16, 2:30 pm; Black Canyon Rd., Simi Valley (from Ventura Fwy take Valley Circle north, then Woolsey Cyn west, following signs to Rocketdyne, turn right on Black Cyn., watch for park signs).

Towsley Canyon Night Hike with Jim Laage: Sat., Oct. 4, 7:00 pm; 24255 The Old Rd., Newhall (exit Calgrove from I-5, turn west, drive ½ mile to entrance; continue west on dirt road for ½ mile to north side of creek parking lot).



The Newsletter of the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is published bi-monthly and is free to Chapter members. Non-member subscription is \$5.00.

To join the California Native Plant Society, write to CNPS, 909 Twelfth St., Suite 116, Sacramento, CA 95814; please specify San Gabriel Mountains Chapter.

Enclose check payable to CNPS.

Membership categories: Individual/Library - \$35;

Student/Retired/Limited Income - \$20;

Family/Group - \$45; Supporting - \$75.

REGIONAL NEWS

It may not be dead, but it is not well. And we conservationists have a new and very unlikely ally. As reported in the *Los Angeles Times*, the 18-hole golf course proposed for the Tujunga Wash was denied a permit by the Los Angeles City Council. It seems that the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 11 opposes the project because it would benefit Kajima International with whom they have an organizing dispute.

According to Chapter Conservation Chair, Rick Fisher, and Dustin Alcalá (who provided our excellent May program on the Tujunga Wash), the threat of a suit by the developer means that the golf course may still win city approval at a later date. But this delay is encouraging to those of us who feel that L.A. has plenty of golf courses but not much wild land. If you visit the Tujunga Wash this fall, you'll see why it's such a special place that deserves protection.

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environment**

**Your
community**

Your choice

**Protecting our planet
for future generations.**

The California Native Plant Society is a member of Earth Share of California, a Payroll Deduction Plan for the Environment. If Earth Share is not part of your payroll deduction plan in your work-place, please let us know. We would like to change that!

Contact Halli Mason, 818-345-6749, for information.



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Dedicated to the Preservation of the California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide nonprofit organization of amateurs & professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The mission of the Society is to increase understanding & appreciation of California's native plants & to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, & conservation. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes the quarterly journal *Fremontia*, the quarterly *Bulletin* which gives statewide news & announcements of Society activities & conservation issues, & the chapter newsletter.



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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